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CONCRETE PRODUCTS HAVE COME A LONG WAY SINCE WORLD WAR I

By Miles Clair, President of A. S. T. M.

Concrete products have come a long way since their manufacture first started here in New England, before World War I. Cracking, which was the worst problem, was more prevalent in concrete masonry than in cast-in-place concrete. With the introduction of cinders for manufacture of lightweight concrete masonry, ter popping and staining became the primary concern and A.S.T.M. tests were devised to determine the acceptability of block.

During those early days, test panels were built of block in the laboratory. Portland cement was used for mortar to get the tightest job possible. Workmanship of the best was not typical of job conditions. Structures built with the same materials were found to have excessive leakage and cracking. This led to the introduction of lime, which produced the workability needed on the job.

Blocks were used mostly for garages for which exposures quality was not a requirement. Since then, block has gotten into society and higher standards have been established.

With passing of time plaster was omitted on the inside. Thus, even better, and better looking block were required.

During this period, manufacturers developed new compounds to add to cement products. Many of these were of questionable value. Some accomplished what they purported to do but often at the expense of some other characteristic. Because of this, all admixtures were banned.

Today, there are many manufacturers with highly skilled technical staffs, producing organic and inorganic compounds for use with Portland cements. As chairman of the Committee on Admixtures, I can see there is a place for additives in our industry. Gypsum, air entraining agents, accelerators, and retarders have already been approved. It is quite probable that chemistry will play a very important part in the development of cement products during the next decade.

The plastics industry is looking for new fields. The promise is that new uses, textures and colors will be developed through the use of admixtures just as we now have additives to improve durability. The probability is that all cements will contain admixtures.

While there will be plenty of room for all, in this field, there will be many problems, many of them new. Steam curing will effect different admixtures in different ways. Air entraining agents react differently at 90 degrees than they do at 70 degrees, for example.

Fly ashes and limes will be useful in the future. However we must note that all silicas are not necessarily highly reactive and there will be problems introduced by their use. Flyash varies from plant to plant and this will introduce problems of control.

Often, in testing, there are honest difference of opinion. At one air force base, a water reducing agent was added which with the particular aggregates used re-

(Continued on Page 8)

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(Continued from Page 7)

quired the addition of cement. Experiences had indicated, in other exposures, a saving of 17% in cement content. After much research by the company involved, the testing laboratory findings were substantiated.

While cements are all manufactured to meet A.S.T.M. requirements, they are not all equal. Committee C-132 studied these characteristics and found considerable variation of tensile strengths and volume changes.

Stanton Walker of N.S.G.A., also found considerable variation.

Block aesthetics have been improved by the application of heat-treated, baked, and air drying plastic facings. However, various phases of block manufacture will have to be standardized in order to reduce variations in the final product. Aggregates and admixtures will have to be carefully controlled to produce uniform surface textures.

These surface treatments will do much for our industry. They make it possible for the architect to produce more appealing structures. The architect understands what appeals and what people want.

Much will have to be learned about plastics. Not all are alike and none are better than they cost. Some are not alkali resistant and others are photo sensitive. They must be developed to be color fast, and be durable as regards exposure to the elements.

Many of today's active concrete masonry producers will be making specially faced units in the next ten years.

Present practice by architects is to keep block out of external or exterior walls. This is unwarranted and unfortunate since new plastic joint materials have made it possible to overcome many of the old short comings of block construction.

Much needs to be done to modernize building codes. Provisions of many community ordinances indicate a desire on the part of the writers to keep block in the out-houses from which it graduated. Fire resistance ratings of block should be

modernized so as not to penalize the block producers. Many codes require 8 inch block where 4 inch and 6 inch would be adequate thus pricing the product out of competition.

Architects are trying to get less weight into partitions and still attain good acoustics. Paint may make a 4 inch block adequate where 6 inch or 8 inch might be required.

The future for concrete masonry is bright. However, future progress commensurate with what has already been accomplished will be realized only: If the mathematical variations of testing are eliminated; if more stringent efforts are made to control the manufacturing process; if mixing and curing are standardized; and if, in short, the block industry presents the building industry with a uniformly good product. Especially the aesthetic acceptability of the product is important. This requires clean edges, good corners, equal heights, and uniformity of textures.

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HARRIMAN TO DISCUSS REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Alonzo Harriman, AIA, of Auburn, Maine, regional director, will be present at the May meeting of New Hampshire Chapter to discuss the forthcoming New England Council convention to be held in the latter part of September or early October.

Announcement of Mr. Harriman's visit to the New Hampshire Chapter was made by Andrew C. Isaak, secretary.

The New England meeting will be hosted by New Hampshire Chapter, and is to be held in the White Mountain area, according to secretary Isaak stated.

"Selling of Architecture to Clients" will be the subject to be discussed at the all council meeting, according to Mr. Harriman.

The exact date and place for the convention is expected to be made known shortly, so that chapter members can make their plans to attend this important convention.

SILICONES ARE RAINCOATS FOR CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

The chemistry of silicones is broad. Their use, well established in households for car polish, cosmetics, and sun tan lotion, is spreading to the construction industry.

The industrial applications also, well established started about 30 years ago. The search for better heat resistant varnishes was successful and led to the placement of linen tapes, wood and paper joints by glass fibers, thus allowing electric motors to run at higher temperatures and improving dielectric resistance.

Research in English laboratories led to the discovery of the high heat resisting qualities of silicon. New high temperature varnishes were developed contributing still further to electrical motor development and later silicon oils and greases became a reality.

Still later, paints were improved and rubber mounts developed to operate from 500 degrees centigrade to 130 degrees centigrade below zero. Along these lines it was found that non stick quality of silicones made them excellent for mold release purposes and their defoaming characteristics fitted them well for crank case oils.

Silicones became important during World War Two when grease like water repellants were used for spark plugs on military air craft. Silicones were later applied to the upper leather of shoes and to rain garments.

Silicones have been applied above ground to buildings for some ten years. For this purpose they have been found to have excellent repellancy, good weathering and resistance to the alkali in mortar. They are clear and do not darken with age. Their outstanding qualifications, however, are that they allow masonry to breathe and they can be applied in cold weather. They minimize efflorescence, do not fill interstices, but coat the masonry particles.

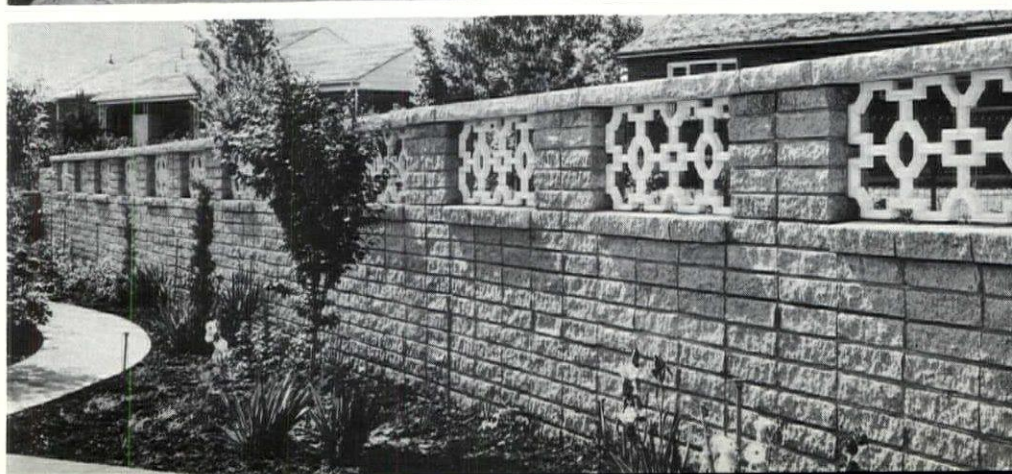
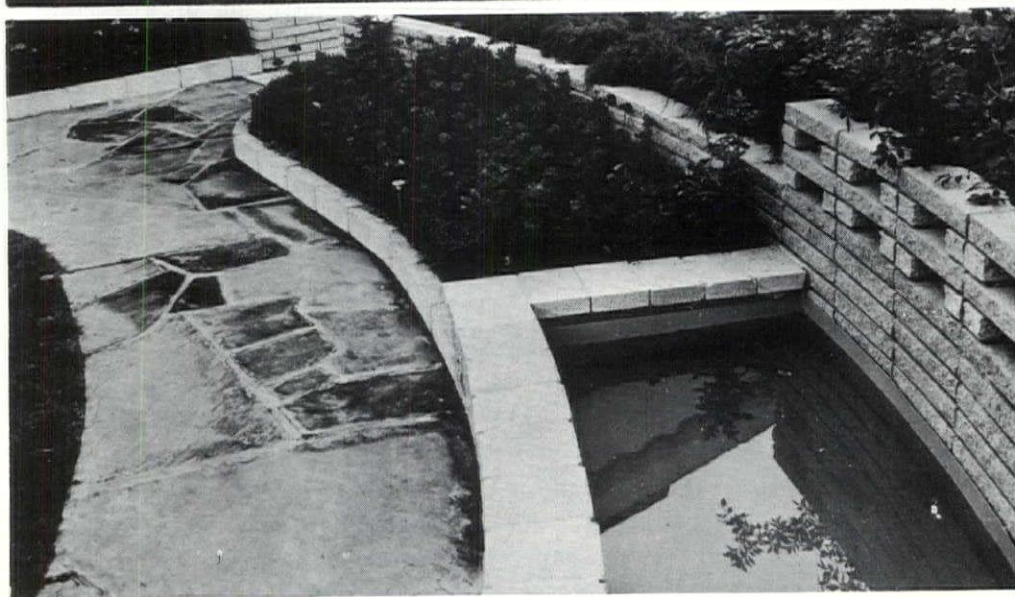
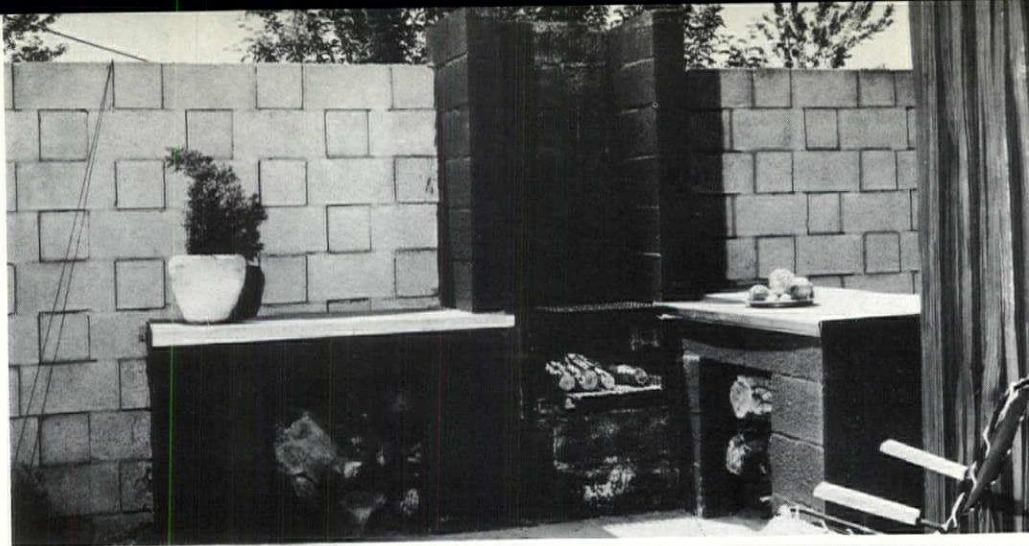
The treatment of masonry started in Europe while in the United States most silicon treatments were concerned with protecting bridge decks for the corrosive action of deicing agents.

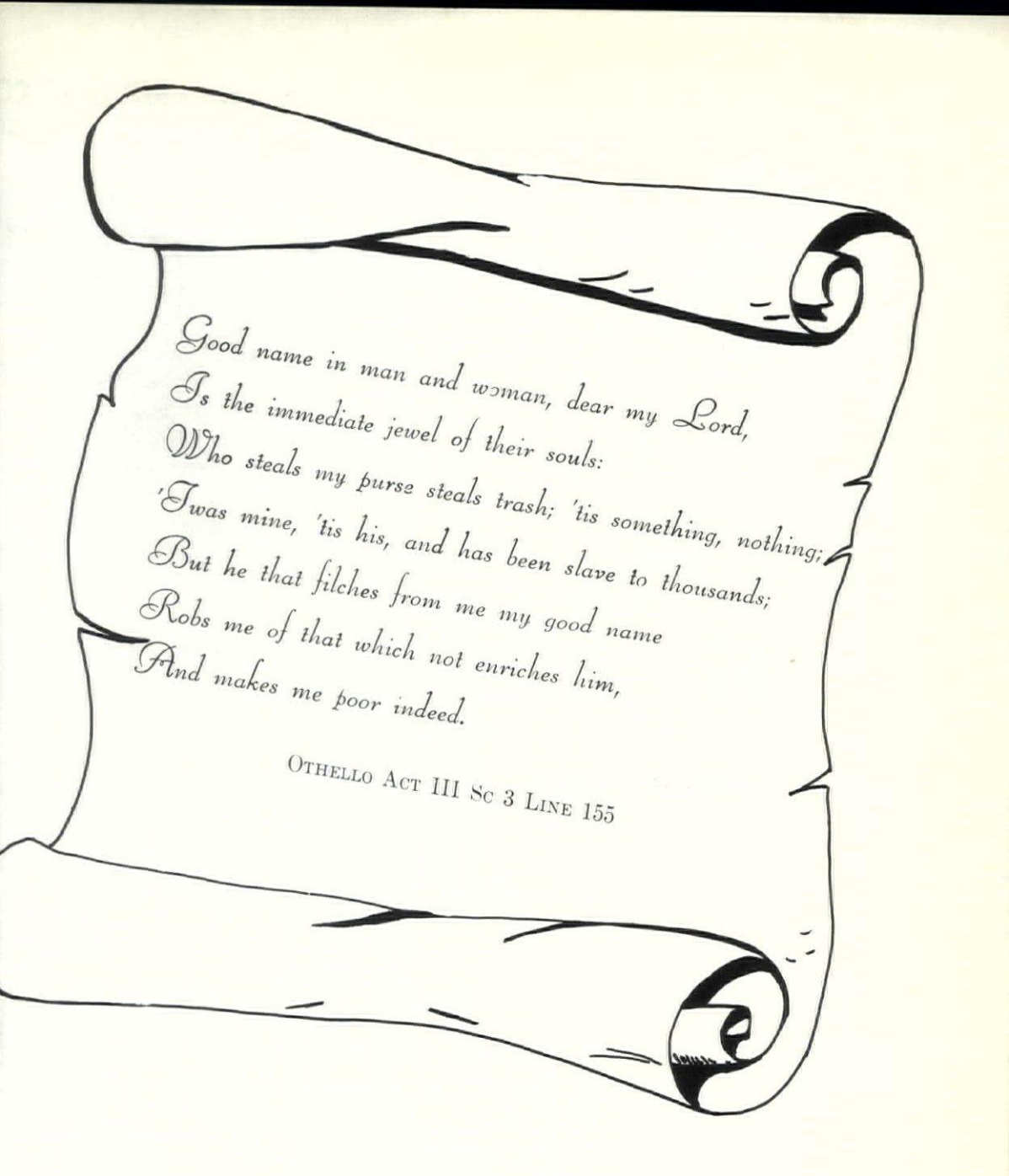
In Texas, presence of vanadium salts caused green efflorescence in brick. By spraying the brick walls both the brick and the joint were protected. A new process called Silaneal has been developed whereby bricks are actually dipped at the plant for periods of two minutes. Questions were asked regarding the strength of the mortar joint as a result of this process. Investigation indicated increased strength of the joint. The treatment facilitates cleaning of the masonry.

Silicon may have a life of from five to ten years and should be applied only to clean surfaces. Application should be on surfaces having an alkali reaction.

On lightweight masonry silicon may not be effective due to the coarseness of the texture and this suggests a water proof type application first. With heavyweight concrete masonry, silicones have been very effective.

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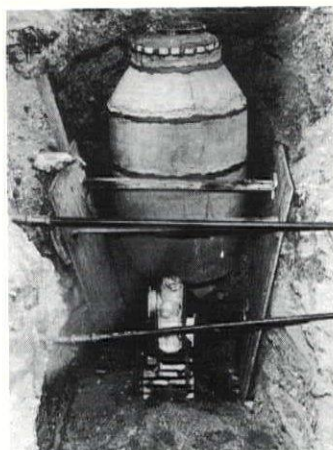
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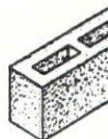
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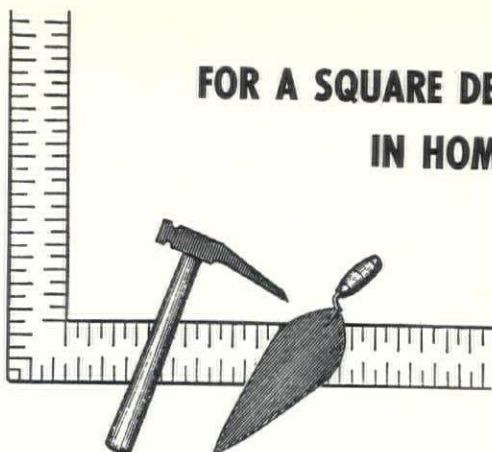
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Above — Manchester Shopping Center. Built by Waltson Realty Co. Owner Walter Hermsdorf, Architects, Koehler & Isaak. Brick by Corriveau-Routhier Co.

Below — Temple Adath Yeshurun, Manchester. Percival Goodman, architect, Koehler & Isaak, associate architects. Harvey Construction Co., Inc., general contractor. Brick by Corriveau-Routhier Co.





Top — Doctors Park, located east of Elliot Hospital on Tarrytown Road, Manchester. Contractors, Marshall-Erdman, New York City. Masonry by Corriveau-Routhier Co.

Bottom — Brookside Congregational Church, Manchester. William L. White, architect. Orchard Stebbins, Inc., general contractor. Brick and Masonry by Corriveau-Routhier Co.





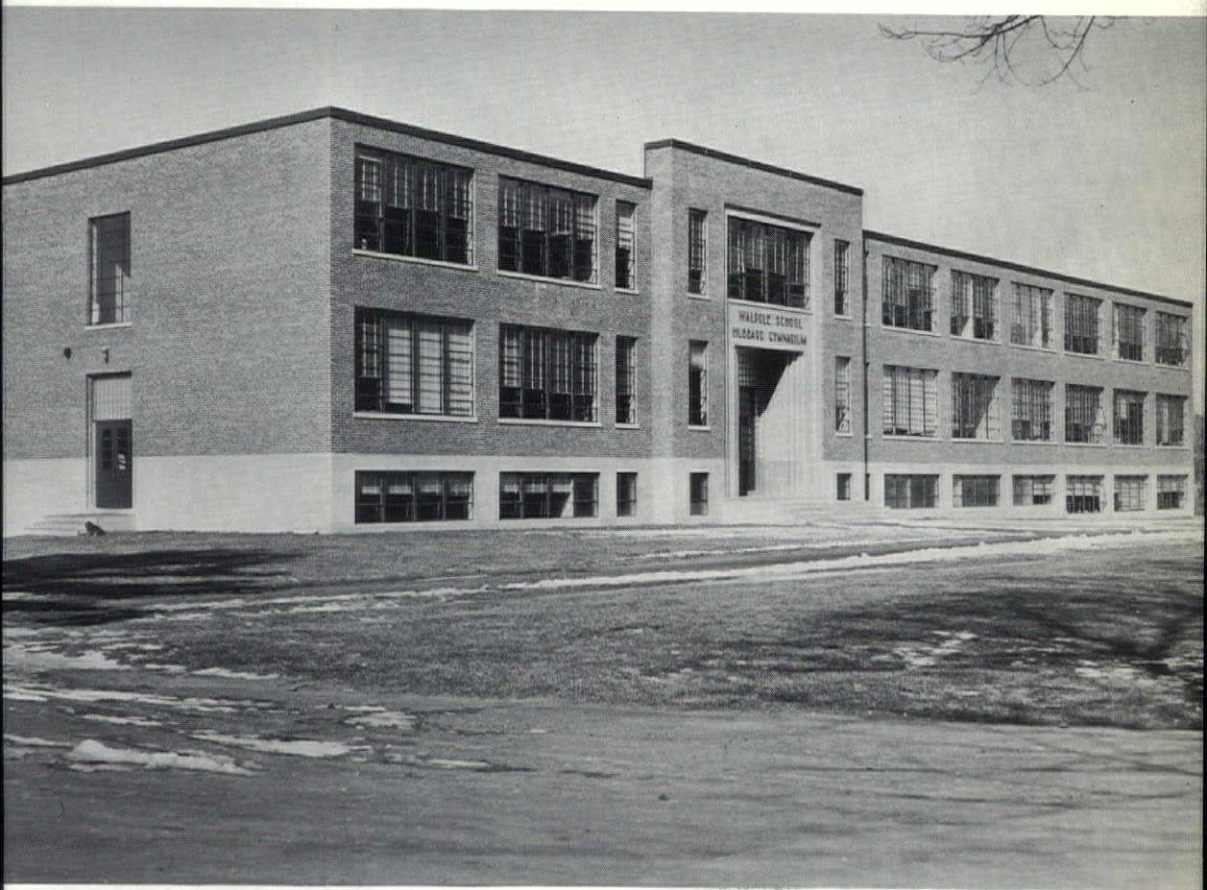
Woodstock Union High School, Woodstock, Vermont. Exterior — Face Brick, Natco Tex Dri-Wall Mingled Red Range, as supplied by Densmore Brick Co. Interior Shower Rooms — Natco Glazed Vitritile. General Contractor — Trumbull-Nelson Co., Hanover, N. H. Architect — Helmer & Cole, Woodstock, Vermont.



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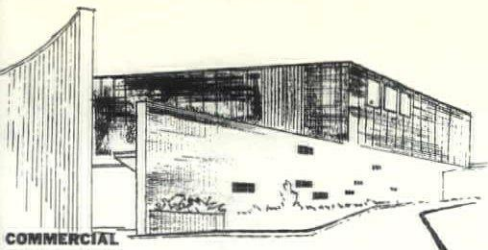
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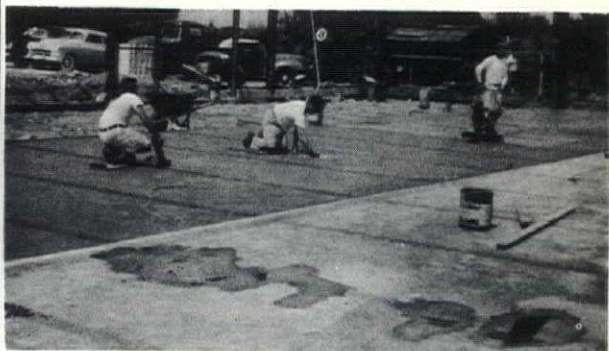
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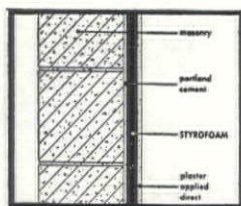
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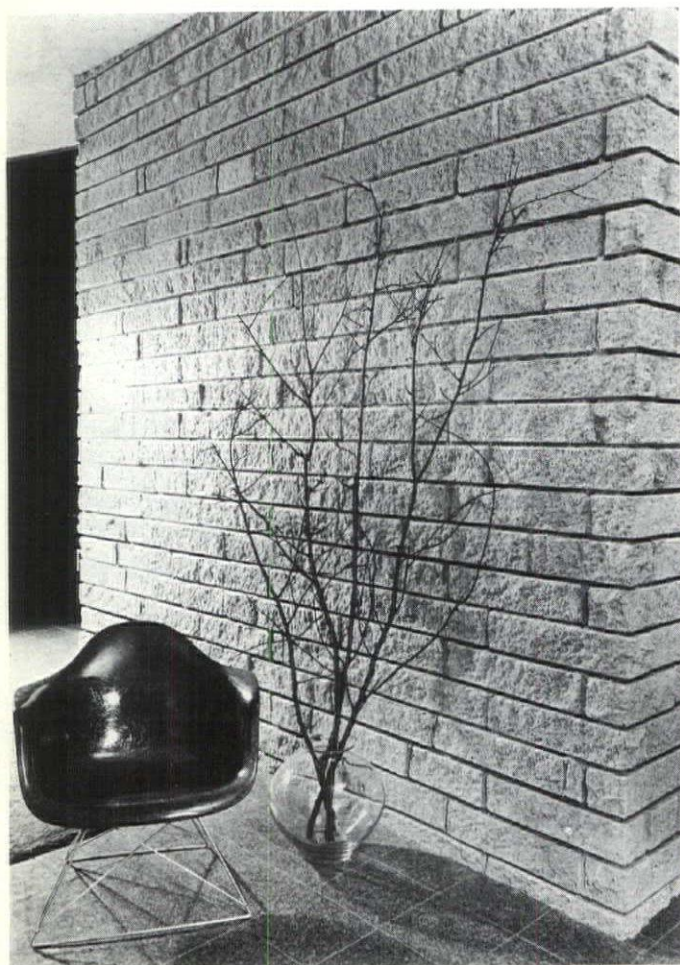
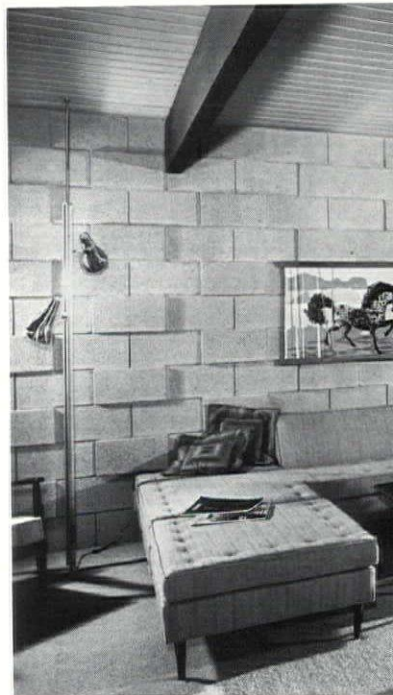
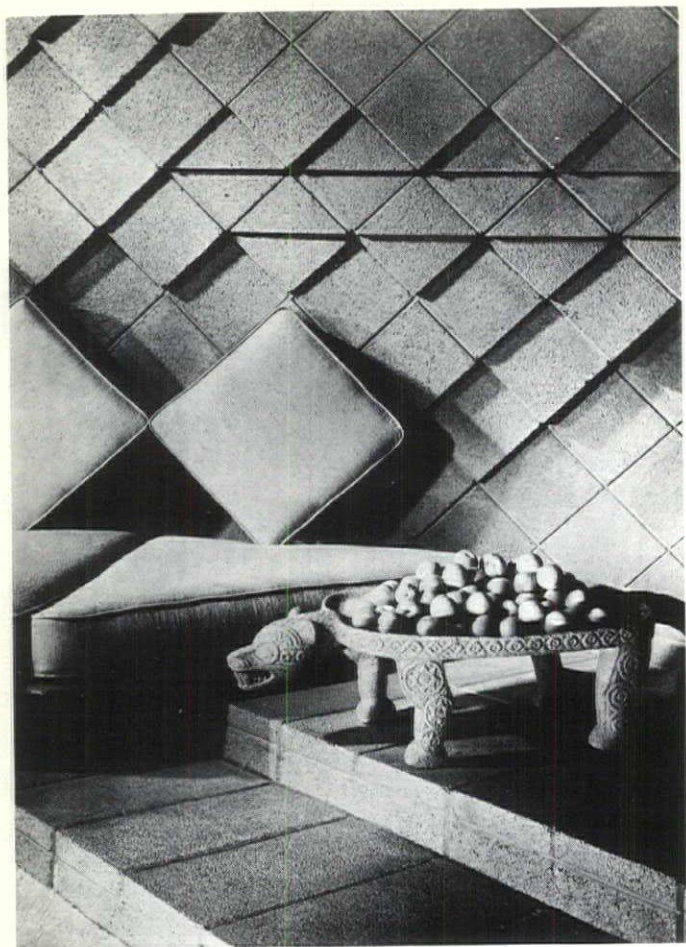
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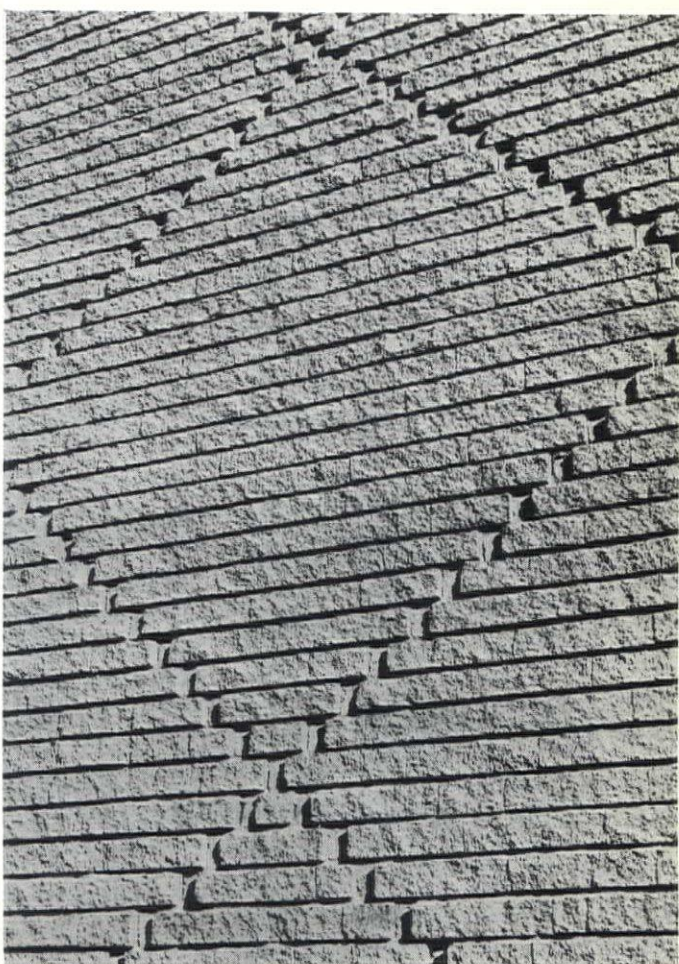
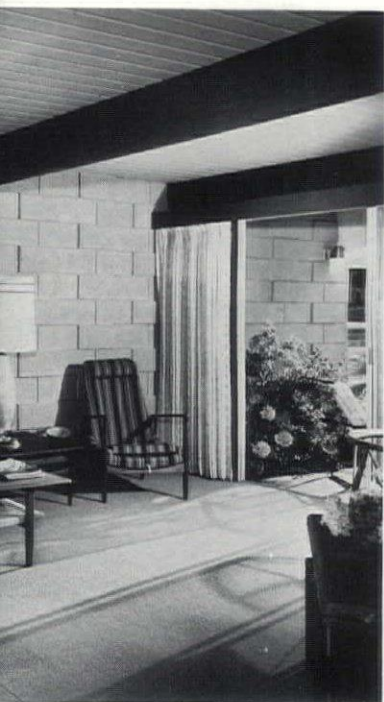
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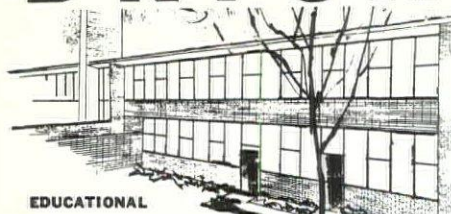


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because they are **Quality Controlled!**

Photo above shows two engineers in the process of taking stone samples which they will test in Whitcomb's lab. This is just one of many tests made. In the Whitcomb operation there are four ready-mix plants and one block plant which are supplied by four aggregate producers. All materials are tested to assure uniformity of the finished products . . . to afford you with the finest quality!

"RUGGED AS MONADNOCK"



PRECISION MADE
MONADNOCK
BLOCKS

ARTHUR
WHITCOMB, inc. 725 Main Street, Keene, N. H.

WHITCOMB TESTING LABORATORY

One of the very few testing laboratories maintained by a concrete block and ready-mix concrete manufacturer in this part of the country is found at Arthur Whitcomb's, Inc., Keene, New Hampshire. This test laboratory was developed by the engineers at Whitcomb's to assure a better, more efficient control of aggregates used in the production of ready-mix concrete and concrete masonry products, thus controlling the quality of the finished product.

This lab is manned by a full-time engineer. Aside from the many testing processes to assure quality-controlled production, the lab is also used for ready-mix concrete and Monadnock block designing and development, for both lightweight and heavyweight materials, to meet the requirements of our clients.

In the process of being constructed is a special curing room. Built within our testing lab, this curing room, complete with automatic temperature and humidity control, will enable us to run compression tests on our ready-mix concrete and Monadnock blocks.

Throughout our production plants, you will find the most modern equipment along with the newest, most scientific methods used to maintain quality control.

For example, we have one of the most unique block curing kiln control systems in this part of the country. Exclusively developed by the Minneapolis-Honeywell Company, it is completely modern with automatic kiln temperature controls. This assures us of a uniform block cure in each kiln.

Control is used throughout our entire operation. From the batch plants to the finished product, testing methods and control mean uniformity . . . assures you of the finest quality produced at the most economical cost.

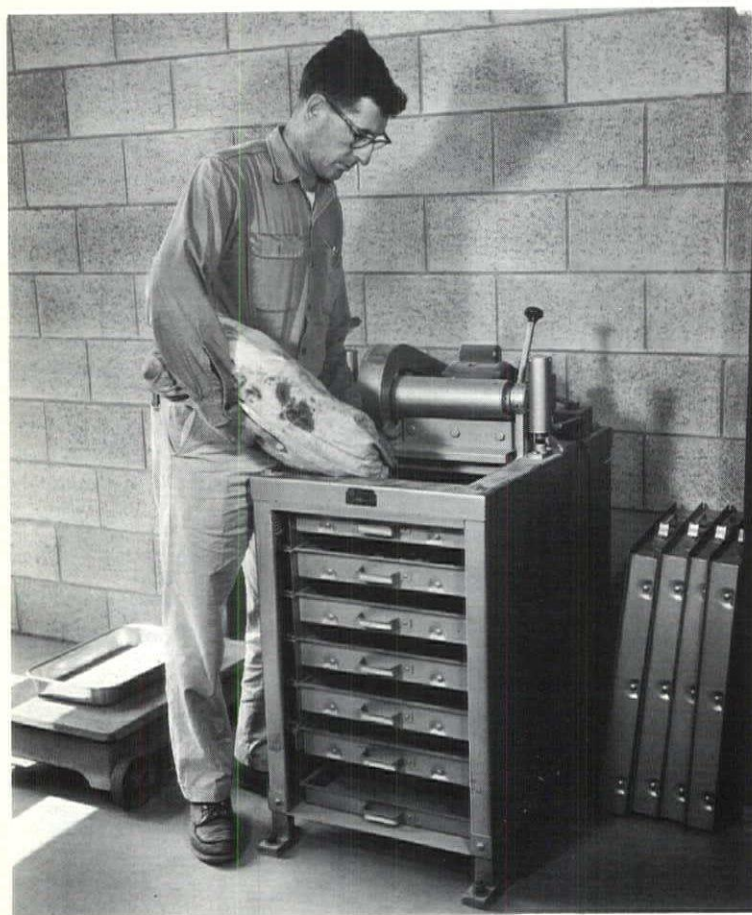
A cordial invitation is extended to you to stop in and see the Monadnock Blocks being produced under these conditions. At the same time, you can observe our ready-mix concrete operation. Whenever you come to Keene, we hope you will stop by and see modern concrete masonry products manufactured the Whitcomb way!



The concrete test hammer is used to obtain a quick field reading on the compressive strength of ready-mixed concrete. This is one means of checking concrete to assure proper loading during the construction period.



Here is a compression test being taken by one of our testing engineers to determine the compressive strength of a sample Monack Block.



One of our newest additions to the testing lab, the Gils Screen Testing Machine, used to test aggregate for gradation.



Here you see a slump test, an air test and a unit weight test. All are just a part of the many tests taken by Whitcomb for continual surveillance to assure top quality.

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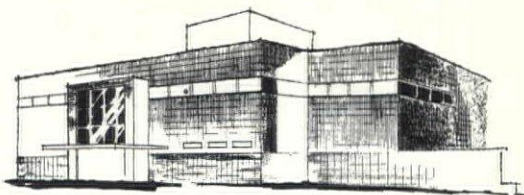
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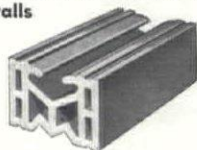
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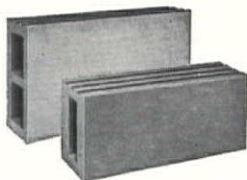
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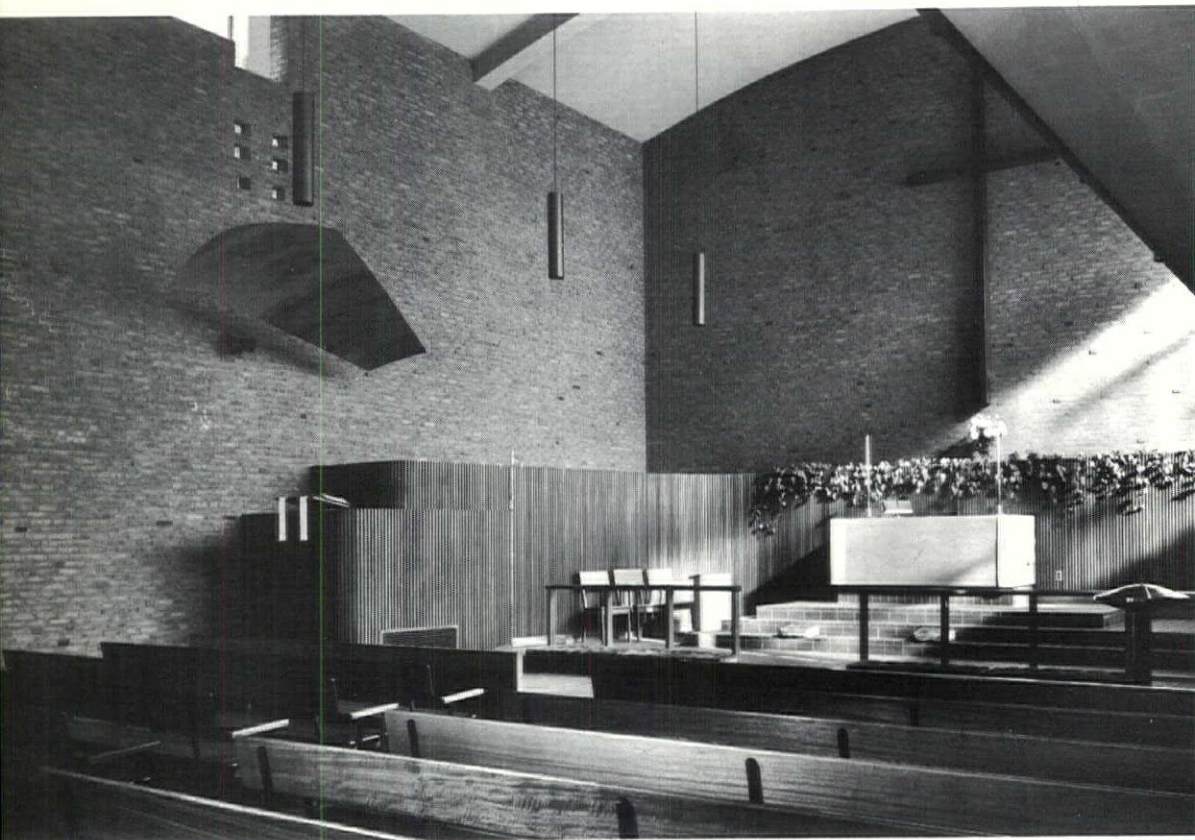
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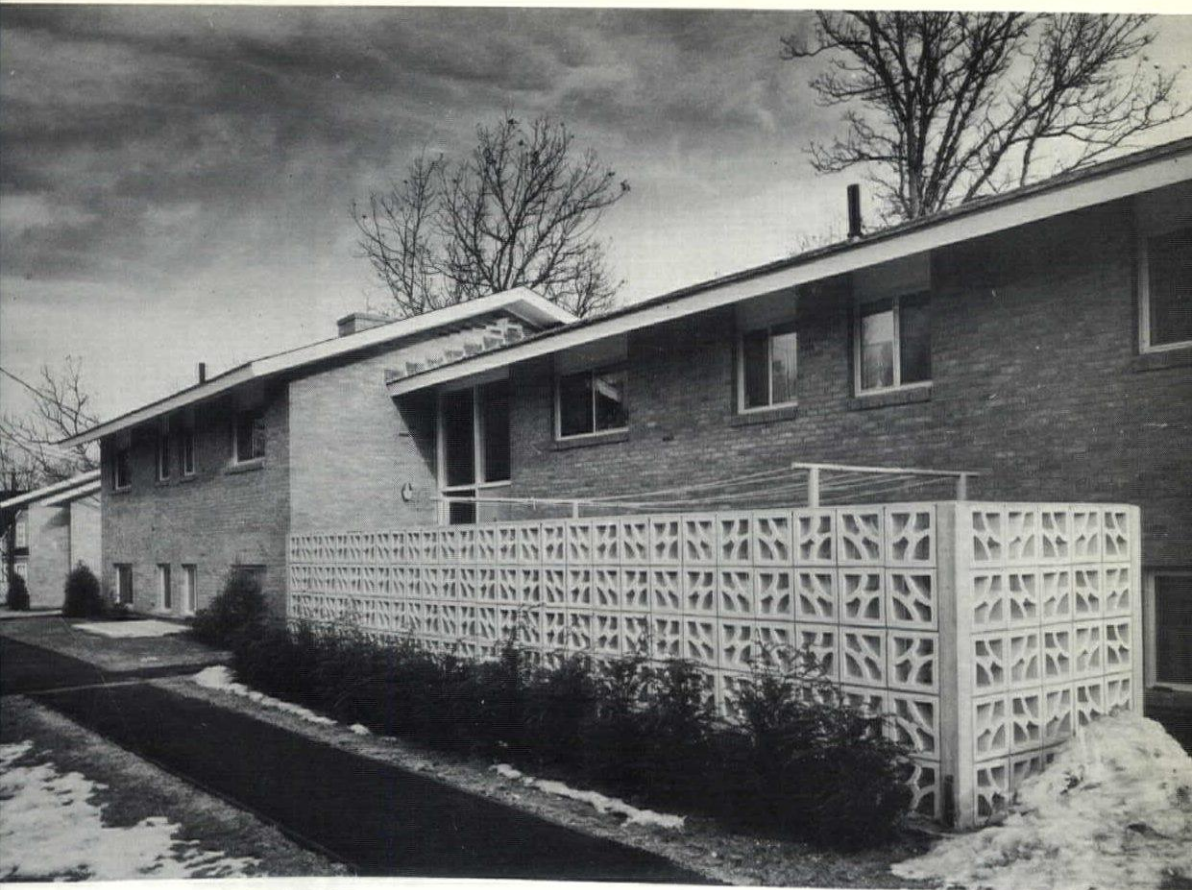
Montrose 3-2700



New additions to the U. N. H. Campus are Randall Hall, left section of above, and Hitchcock Hall. Irving W. Hersey, A.I.A., Architect, Blanchard Stebbins, Inc., General Contractor. Brick by W. S. Goodrich, Inc.



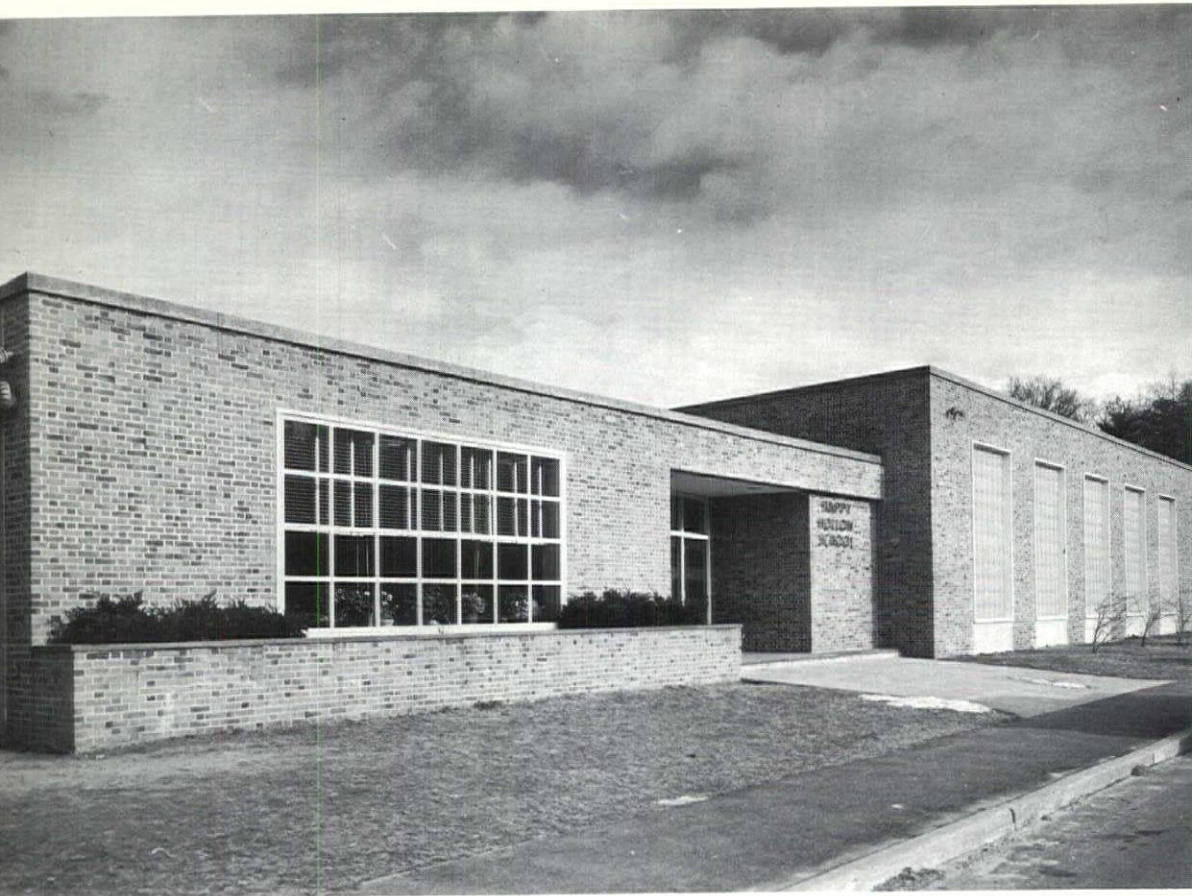
First Lutheran Church, Boston. Pietro Belluschi, Architect. Brick by Spaulding Brick Co., Inc.



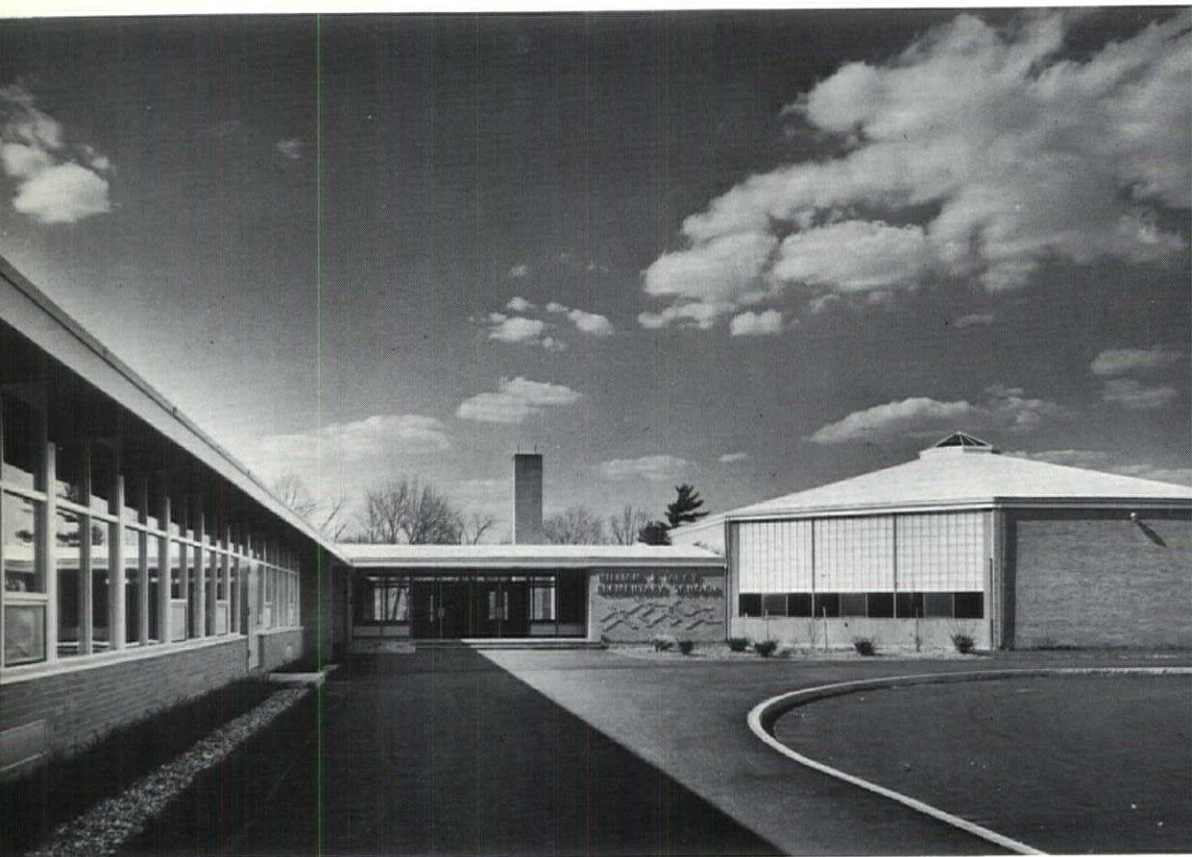
Housing for the Elderly, Natick, Mass. Tekton Associates, Architects. Brick by Paulding Brick Co., Inc.



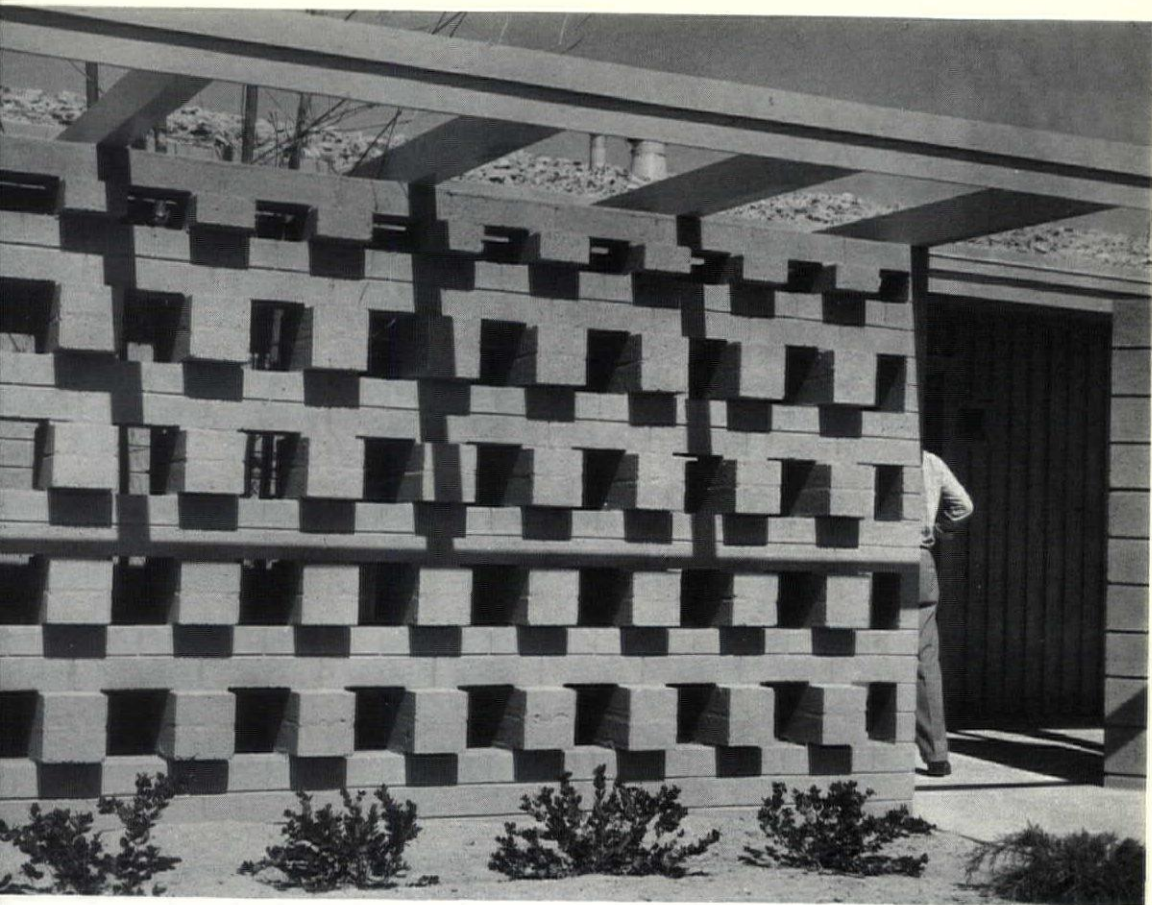
Ewen Knight Building, Natick Industrial Park, Samuel Glaser, Architect. Brick by Paulding Brick Co., Inc.



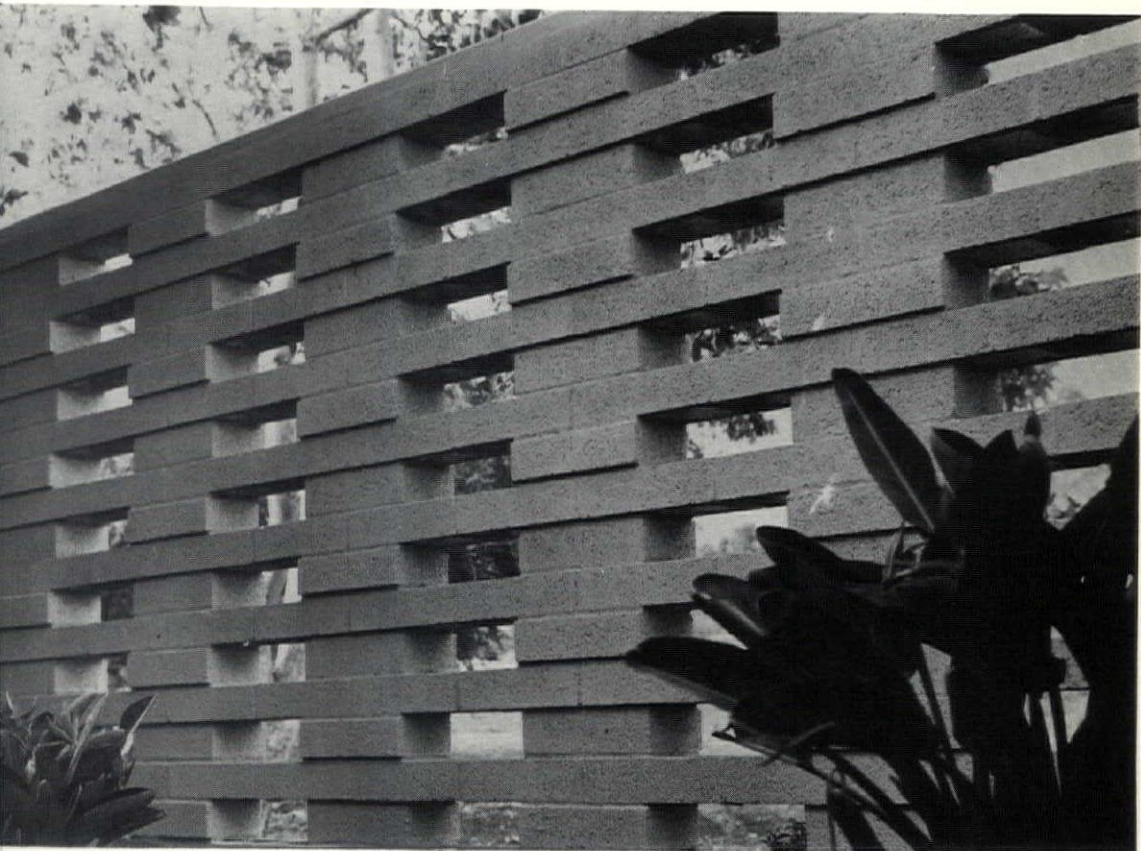
Wayland High School, The Architects Collaborative. Brick by Spaulding Brick Co., Inc.



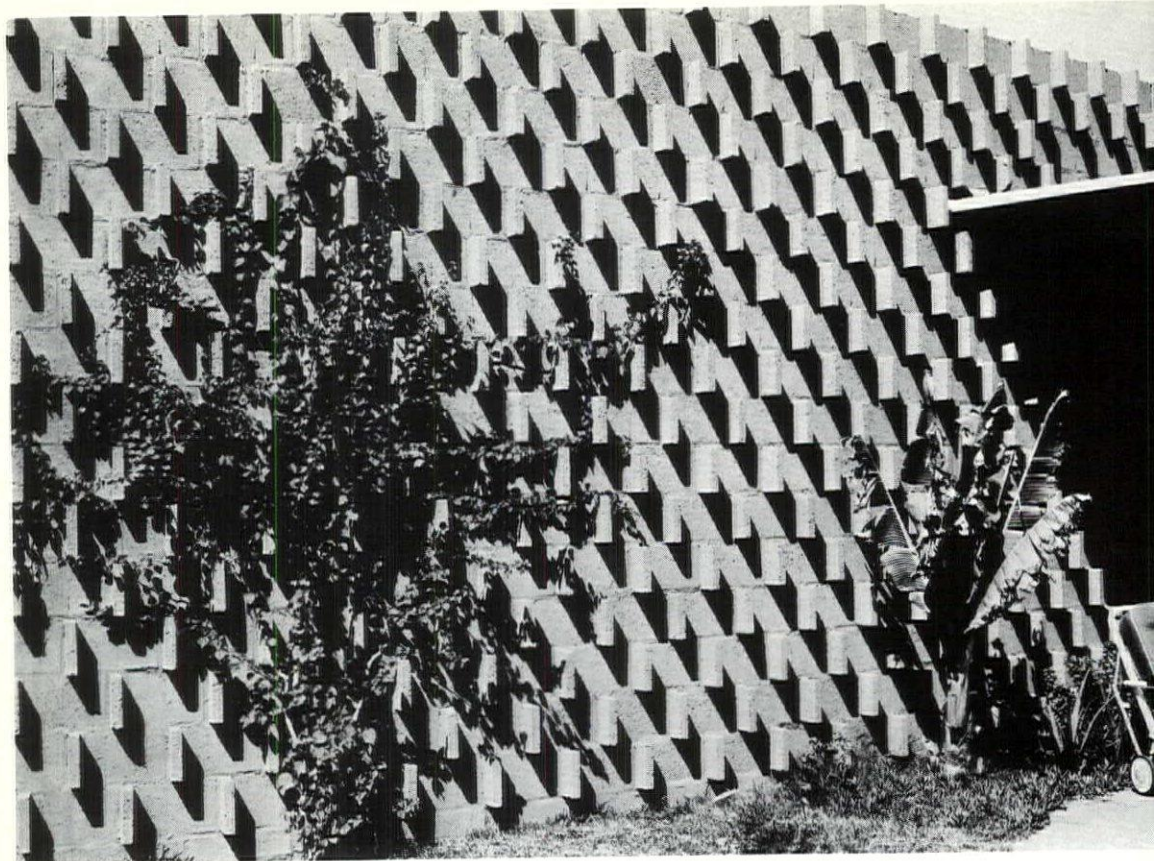
Tarkey Elementary School, Woburn. Edward Tedesco, Architect. Brick by Spaulding Brick Co., Inc.



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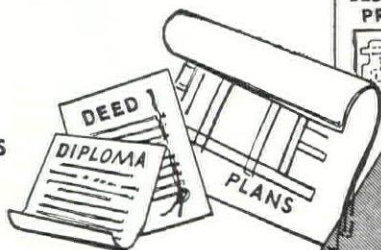
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